

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A process for the manufacture 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate comprising reacting ketoisophorone with an acylating agent in the presence of an indium salt as a catalyst.
2. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the indium salt is indium trichloride or indium tris (trifluoromethanesulfonate).
3. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the acylating agent is an acid anhydride, an acyl halide or an enol ester.
4. (currently amended) The process according to claim 3, wherein the acylating agent is a straight or branched chain alkanoic acid anhydride, ~~preferably acetic, propionic or butyric anhydride~~; a straight or branched chain alkanoyl chloride, ~~preferably acetyl, propionyl or butyryl chloride~~; or, an enol ester, ~~preferably isopropenyl acetate or butyrate~~.
5. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the acylating agent to ketoisophorone is from about 1:1 to about 5:1, ~~preferably from about 2:1 to about 3:1, most preferably about 3:1~~.
6. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the indium salt used as the catalyst is from about 0.1 mol-% to about 2 mol-%, ~~preferably from about 0.1 to about 1 mol-%~~, based on the amount of ketoisophorone.

7. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the acylating reaction is carried out at a temperature of from about 0°C to about 140°C, ~~preferably from about 25°C to about 90°C, more preferably from about 25°C to about 70°C.~~

8. (previously presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the 2,3, 5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate obtained is converted into (all-*rac*)- α -tocopherol by transesterification to yield 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone and reaction of the latter with isophytol and/or phytol.

9. (previously presented) A process for the manufacture of 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone whereby the 2,3,5- trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate obtained according to claim 1 is used as starting material.

10. (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, whereby the 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate is transesterified to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone.

11. (withdrawn/currently amended) A process for the manufacture of α -tocopherol and its alkanoates, ~~especially of (all-*rac*)- α -tocopherol and its acetate~~, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 1.

12. (withdrawn/currently amended) A process for the manufacture of formulations of α -tocopherol and its alkanoates, ~~especially of formulations of (all-*rac*)- α -tocopherol and its acetate~~, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 1.

13. (new) The process according to claim 4, wherein the alkanoic acid anhydride is acetic, propionic or butyric anhydride.

14. (new) The process according to claim 4, wherein the alkanoyl chloride is acetyl, propionyl or butyryl chloride.

15. (new) The process according to claim 4, wherein the enol ester is isopropenyl acetate or butyrate.

16. (new) The process according to claim 5, wherein the molar ratio is from about 2:1 to about 3:1.

17. (new) The process according to claim 16, wherein the molar ratio is about 3:1.

18. (new) The process according to claim 6, wherein the amount of the indium salt is from about 0.1 to 1 mol-%.

19. (new) The process according to claim 7, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from about 25°C to about 90°C.

20. (new) The process according to claim 19, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from about 25°C to about 70°C.

21. (new) A process for the manufacture of (all-*rac*)- α -tocopherol and its acetate, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 11.

22. (new) A process for the manufacture of formulations of (all-*rac*)- α -tocopherol and its acetate, comprising the reaction of ketoisophorone to 2,3,5-trimethylhydroquinone dialkanoate according to claim 12.